

49

EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

1 March 1968

Poles Want Competitive US Bid in Uranium

A Foreign Trade Ministry official told a US Embassy officer in Warsaw in early February that the major reason his government has asked for a quotation from US sources for enriched uranium was to use the bid to lower the Soviet price when the time comes to purchase the material. He said the Poles were "almost obliged" to buy uranium from the Soviets but that a good US price would be a powerful argument which could be used effectively by his ministry during negotiations with Moscow.

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COMMENT: This is the first known Polish approach, tactical or otherwise, to a Western country as a source of nuclear material. It is not known what response the Polish query brought from the US.

Foreign Minister Peter Encourages Further Dutch-Hungarian Discussions

During his talks with Dutch Foreign Minister Luns earlier this month, Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter gave the impression that Hungary would be receptive to bilateral discussions with The Netherlands on some European problems. Luns has told the NATO political advisors that he proposed a "group of ten" approach to a European security conference and a potential "arrangement" between the European Economic Community and Eastern Europe and that Peter indicated an interest. Peter failed to give any encouragement on the German problem except to state that Hungary was attentive to recent developments. Peter and Luns also agreed to maintain communications on the Vietnamese situation, but Peter warned that this should be done privately to avoid encouraging false hopes.

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COMMENT: The EEC "arrangement" is of particular interest to the Hungarians whose long range economic development is dependent on expanding its hard currency trade. Premier Fock's recent statement that, "It would not be abandoning our principles if, in the interest

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GRADING AND DECLASSIFICATION

-2-

of our trade relations, we should turn to one of the EEC organizations in Brussels. This should be done if it is in the interests of Hungary," is an indication of the importance Hungary places on its trade prospects.

East German Party Congratulates Fred Oelssner On His Birthday

Fred Oelssner, once the East German party's chief ideologue who was purged in 1958 for "factional activities", was honored by the SED on the occasion of his 65th birthday. Oelssner was similarly honored on his 60th birthday. The SED Central Committee sent him a letter, signed by Walter Ulbricht, which noted his long-time participation in the struggle "against imperialism and fascism and for socialism," thanked him for his "tireless work" in carrying out party-assigned tasks, and wished him well for the future.

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COMMENT: Oelssner, Karl Schirdewan, the then-heir presumptive to Ulbricht, and Ernst Wollweber, Minister of State Security, were purged in 1958 because they opposed Ulbricht's desire to increase the pace of socialization, apparently because they thought this would impede the chances for German reunification. In 1959, however, Oelssner and Schirdewan publicly recanted and pledged their loyalty to Ulbricht. Since then, Oelssner has worked in the GDR Academy of Sciences, and is now a member of the Academy's presidium and director of its Institute for Economic Sciences.

By honoring Oelssner, the SED demonstrated once again its relatively-civilized approach to handling dissenters; remove them from seats of power, and pretend that nothing ever happened.

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Rumania Walks Out of Budapest Preparatory Meeting

On 29 February the Rumanian delegation acting under orders from its Central Committee in Bucharest walked out of the Budapest Preparatory Meeting in protest against the course the meeting was taking. Earlier the Rumanians had demanded a resolution from the floor which would forswear further attacks on the Chinese and on Rumania itself. After considerable haggling, a Finnish CP compromise measure was passed but the

25X1

-3-

compromise did not satisfy the Rumanians who walked out of the meeting and returned to Bucharest. A UPI account of the walkout alleges that the Finnish delegation head accompanied the Rumanians as far as the door of the meeting hall before turning back at the last minute.

The official communist view of the walkout in yesterday's communique places full responsibility for the walkout on the Rumanians' intransigence in the face of the "deeply democratic atmosphere" of the debate on the Rumanian demands. The communique states that the Meeting will continue its work to prepare the International Communist Conference and to unite the communist movement.

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WFTU Sets Vietnam Solidarity Day

On 23 February the World Federation of Trade Unions, headquartered in Prague, appealed to trade unions throughout the world to make 1 May a day of solidarity with Vietnam.

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Bulgarian Mass Organization Disbands

Bulgaria's Voluntary Organization for Cooperation in Defense (DOSO) has been disbanded, effective 1 March. Its educational and sports responsibilities will be absorbed by the Komsomol.

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COMMENT: This action is in line with government and party boss Todor Zhivkov's December theses which advocated the centralization of all activities related to youth under the Komsomol.

Polish Plenum Forms Congress Commission

The two-day 11th plenum of the Polish Communist party ended on 29 February with the adoption of a resolution to hold a congress in the "fourth quarter of 1968" and created a special congress commission. The commission includes the entire Politburo and Secretariat.

25X1

-4-

The Embassy concluded that the diverse character of the commission is a reflection of "continuing political strength." The 88 members include such strange bedfellows as Kociolek, Schaff, and Trampczynski on one hand and Naszkowski, Ruminski and Witaszewski on the other. All but nine of the commission members are on the Central Committee.

The broad time zone for scheduling the congress--three months--probably is related to uncertainty about the date for the proposed international Communist conference which the Soviets have suggested for November or December.

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Absence of Albanian Officials

According to our records, no leading Albanian party or government officials have appeared in public for the last 12 days. There is a confirmed report of a low level purge now in progress in one district of Albania [redacted] however, no reason has as yet been given for this unexplained and prolonged absence of key party/state dignitaries.

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NOTE: THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ABOVE REPRESENT
ONLY THE ANALYSIS OF THE EE DIVISION

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CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS FOR MARCH 1968

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Undated Rumania : Premier Maurer and Foreign Minister Manescu to make an official visit to Sweden in early March []

Yugoslavia : Federal Executive Council President Spiljak and Foreign Minister Nikezic to Turkey [] 25X1

: Foreign Minister Nikezic to Warsaw []

3-12 East Germany : Leipzig Spring Fair [] 25X1

3 Yugoslavia-Bulgaria : The 90th anniversary of the Treaty of San Stefano [] 25X1

4-8 Berlin : West German Bundestag Committee meetings [] 25X1

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12 Yugoslavia : Dutch Foreign Minister Luns to Belgrade [] 25X1

20 Czechoslovakia : Central Committee plenum [] 25X1

20-26 Bulgaria : Party and government leader Zhivkov to Turkey []

25-30 Hungary : Premier Fock to visit France []

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